

does not include new matter. Further, it is applicants' contention that the amendment to claim 5 should not require an additional search and should be entered at least for purposes of appeal if the application is not allowed.

It is applicants' contention that amended claims 4 and 5 are clearly and patentably distinguished over applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of Ford, Cherian et al and Scheingold et al. As the Examiner recognizes, AAPA does not show the branch portions of one spring plate extending away from the other plate, the branch portion turned into a U-shape, the head end connecting portion turned into a U-shape and gold plating at the head end and the base end connecting portions. The Examiner then argues that Ford shows branch portions extending away from another terminal and concludes that it would have been obvious to combine such features with the features of AAPA.

The Examiner then argues that Scheingold shows terminal 32 with a branch portion and head portion turned into U-shapes, and alleges that applicants' claimed combination would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art in view of the aforementioned references. In addition, the Examiner states Cherian et al. shows a terminal 18 with terminal ends coated with gold and that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide such features to the AAPA terminals.

It is respectfully submitted that applicants' combination of elements as called for in amended claims 4 and 5 would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. It is applicants' contention that the Examiner has taken elements from the remote corners of the art and combined them using applicants' specification as a

template. This use of hindsight is clearly improper under the law. Accordingly, it is applicants' contention that claims 4 and 5 should be allowed.

Further, amended claim 5 is characterized in that the intermediate elongated flat portion holds the branch portion and the head end portion. The reaction force of the contact pressure at the head end connecting portion applied to the intermediate flat portion to twist the flat portion. However, the flat plate resists the twisting force so that the flat portion supports the head end in the branch. Consequently, the connecting device makes it possible to connect two remote points. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose such a flat support portion.

In addition, it is applicants' contention that there is nothing in the prior art to suggest the branch portion being extended away from the other connecting spring plate and turned into a U-shaped at a halfway point so as to overlap with a base portion of the branch portion. Accordingly, it is applicants' contention that amended claims 4 and 5 should be allowed.

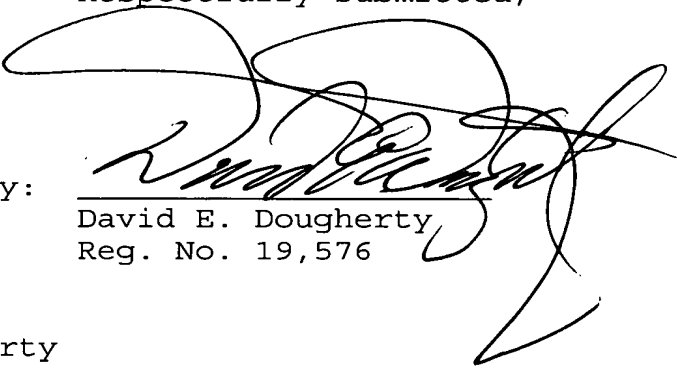
Since all of the claims are now in proper form and clearly and patentably distinguished over the cited art, prompt, favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

August 15, 2002

Date

By:

  
David E. Dougherty  
Reg. No. 19,576

Dennison, Schultz & Dougherty  
612 Crystal Square 4  
1745 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Tel: 703-412-1155 - Ext. 17  
Fax: 703-412-1161